

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cross-enterprise system comprising:  
a first portal operably associated with a  
distributed component stored within a storage medium  
5 accessible by a second port; and  
a cross-enterprise environment established  
between the first portal and at least the second portal  
using the distributed component.

10 2. The system as recited in Claim 1 further  
comprising the distributed component distributed from at  
least one supply chain.

15 3. The system as recited in Claim 1 further  
comprising a global identifier associated with the  
distributed component and the first and second portal.

20 4. The system as recited in Claim 1 further  
comprising a dedicated workspace associated with the  
distributed component.

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 further  
comprising distributed access locations.

6. A method of providing a portal to portal environment, comprising:

providing a component associated with a supplier portal; and

5 distributing the component to a user portal, the component operable to provide an association between the supplier portal and the user portal.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the component  
10 comprises distributing an encapsulated component.

8. The method of Claim 6 further comprising a global identifier associated with the component.

15 9. The method of Claim 6 further comprising distributing the component to plural user portals.

10. The method of Claim 6 further comprising distributing the component from the user portal to a  
20 second user portal.

11. The method of Claim 6 further comprising identifying a workspace associated with the component.

12. A distributed portal to portal system  
comprising:

at least one supplier portal operable to  
provide communication between a plurality of networks;

5 at least one encapsulated component operably  
associated with the at least one supplier portal; and

at least one user portal, operable to receive a  
plurality of distributed encapsulated components.

10 13. The system as recited in Claim 12 wherein the  
plurality of distributed encapsulated components include  
a global identifier operable to globally identify the  
distributed component.

15 14. The system as recited in Claim 12 further  
comprising a retail mall environment operably associated  
with the at least one supplier portal.

20 15. The system as recited in Claim 12 further  
comprising a business to business cross enterprise  
environment associated with the at least one supplier  
portal and the at least one user portal.

25 16. The system as recited in Claim 12 further  
comprising a legacy front end component operable to  
provide access between a legacy system and the at least  
one supplier portal.

30 17. The system as recited in Claim 12 wherein the  
at least one user portal comprises the at least one  
supplier portal.

18. A secure network system comprising:  
an unbounded network operable to serve a  
plurality of servers and end users;  
a bounded network comprised within the  
5 unbounded network, the bounded network operable to serve  
a limited number of servers and end users;  
a plurality of distributed access points  
operable to divert network traffic associated with the  
servers within the bounded network from the unbounded  
10 network; and  
each access point operable to intercept network  
traffic originating from a distinct group of  
workstations.

19. The system as recited in Claim 18 further  
comprising each access point operable to consolidate  
traffic for a subset of servers within the bounded  
network.

20. The system as recited in Claim 19 wherein the  
access points comprise network devices.

21. The system as recited in Claim 19 wherein the  
access points comprise portals.

22. The system as recited in Claim 19 wherein the  
access points comprise filters operable to limit network  
traffic to properly formatted and otherwise legitimate  
traffic associated with the servers within the bounded  
30 network.

23. The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein the access points comprise network devices.

24. The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein the  
5 access points comprise portals.

25. The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein the access points comprise filters operable to limit network traffic to properly formatted and otherwise legitimate  
10 traffic associated with the servers within the bounded network.

26. The system as recited in Claim 25 wherein the access points comprise capacity limitors operable to  
15 balance the traffic associated with specific servers within the bounded network.

27. The system as recited in Claim 26 wherein the capacity limiter comprises a static limiter.  
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28. The system as recited in Claim 26 wherein the capacity limiter comprises a dynamic limiter.

29. The system as recited in Claim 26 wherein the  
25 capacity limiter comprises a adaptive limiter.

30. A cross-enterprise system for retail environments comprising:

at least one component stored within a storage medium; and

5 a plurality of distributed components operably associated with a cross-enterprise portal, the cross-enterprise portal including the retail environment.

31. The system as recited in Claim 30 wherein at  
10 least one of the distributed components comprises a utility component operable associated with a common service.

32. The system as recited in Claim 30 wherein at  
15 least one of the distributed components comprises a store component operable associated with a retailer.

33. The system as recited in Claim 30 wherein at  
20 least one of the distributed components comprises a department component.

34. The system as recited in Claim 30 wherein at  
least one of the distributed components comprises an aggregator component operable associated with at least  
25 one store component.

35. The system as recited in Claim 30 wherein at  
least one of the distributed components comprises a shelf component operable to identify similar products.



37. A method for providing a retail mall using a distributed components comprising:

providing at least one component operable associated with a mall; and

5 associating a distributed component with the component, the distributed component operable to be used in association with a user accessing the retail mall.

38. The method of Claim 37 further comprising  
10 providing a session management component associated with the user accessing the retail mall.

39. The method of Claim 37 further comprising  
providing a plurality of component layers operably  
15 associated with a plurality of retailers.

40. The method of Claim 39 further comprising  
providing a product component operably associated with  
one of the components layers.

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41. The method of Claim 37 further comprising a providing a plurality of malls.

42. The method of Claim 37 further comprising re-  
25 using at least one the distributed components associated with the mall.